Loss of Life and Property due to Flood and Drought

157. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of life and property in the country due to floods and drought, during the last one year and so far during the current year; and

(b) the amount of money given by way of relief due to such calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Statements indicating the extent of damage due to various .natural calamities during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given at *Annexure [see Appendix 184 Annexure No. 1]*

(b) A Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted with annual contributions by the Centre and the State in the ratio of 3:1 to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the event of natural calamities like floods, droughts, cyclones, hailstorms, landslides, earthquakes, etc. In addition, additional assistance is provided to the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the event of a calamity of rare severity, if any.

During 1997-98, an allocation of Rs. 1263.71 crore was made to the State from the Calamity Relief Fund. In addition, additional assistance of Rs. 273.37 crore was released to some States from the NFCR for calamities of rare severity. For 1998-99, there is an allocation of Rs. 1328.15 crore to the States under CRF and the first instalment of Centre's share has already been released to the States.

Trout Fish Culture in the Hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh

158. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an ample scope of trout fish culture due to the availability of cold streams in a very big area in the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh;

(b)whether it is also a fact that the Government of Uttar Pradesh have submitted a proposal to Government seeking external assistance for trout fish culture project worth abour Rs. 2 crore;

(c)whether Government have succeeded in obtaining external assistance; if so, by when this scheme is likely to be started; and

(d)if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. About 255 Km stream length is suitable for development of trout fishery in the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) to (d) The Government of India have received a project proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in May, 1996 for seeking external assistance for the development of Trout Fish Farming in the hilly areas of the State. The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance have informed that the proposal was pnsed to the French authorities for assistance under the Indo-French Financial Protocol in April, 1998, but the French authorities were of the view that since the proposal does not meet the technical and structural parameters required for eligibility, they cannot consider the proposal under the Indo-French Financial Protocol.

Pestilence in Cotton Crops in Andhra Pradesh

159. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether any study has been undertaken on the excessive pestilence in cotton crops in Andhra Pradesh;

(b)if so, the name of the agency doing this study;